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CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

R E P O R T

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICLR OF HEALTH

- for the year -

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CLUN RURAL DISTRICT.

R E P O R T of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health. M. GIPP, D.P.H. (S.W. Salop Combined Districts).

Sanitary Inspector. H.A. ELLIOTT, Cert. R.San.Inst., Cert. in Meat Inspection. Also holds office as Surveyor, Water Engineer, and generally as Architect on Housing Schemes.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres). 132,512.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1937. 9,959.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books. 2,799 approx.

Rateable Value. £24,049. Sum represented by a penny rate. £107.

Social Conditions. Under the Salop Review Order the District in 1934 was greatly increased in area, and in population, by the inclusion of the Rural Districts of Chirbury and Teme, with a small area from Minsterley parish in Atcham R.D. The area was increased by some 62 per cent, and the population some 78 per cent, by the change.

The District is practically entirely agricultural in character. Much of its area lies at an elevation of 1,000 feet and upwards, with wide fertile valleys in which are a number of villages and hamlets. There is one small ancient market town, that of Clun, but otherwise there are no communities urban or semi-urban in character. Much of the hill country is under cultivation or grazed. There are a number of residential estates, and many isolated farmsteads and small holdings. There are no industries outside agriculture with its associated crafts and trades and a small amount of barytes mining, the former extensive lead mining industry having become dormant or extinct.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births	Legitimate	138	75	63	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	14.7
	Illegitimate	9	3	6		
Stillbirths		5	3	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	33
Deaths		143	68	75	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.3

Deaths from puerperal causes:-	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births).
No.29. Puerperal sepsis ..	nil	-
No.30. Other puerperal causes.	nil	-
Total ..	nil	-

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-	Number.	Rate.
All infants per 1,000 live births ..	5	34
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births)	5	36
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	20
" " Measles (all ages)	nil.
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	nil.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	nil.

		Clun R.D.	England & Wales.
Birth rate per 1,000 of population		14.7	14.9
Death Rate " " " "	(Crude	14.3	12.4
	(Corrected	11.9	
Infant death rate per 1,000 born		34	58

Population. The population, as estimated by the Registrar-General for the year, was 9,959. This is a fall in number of 714 since the Census of 1931, and the Registrar-General, by the figures given by him from year to year, evidently estimates for a decline, at present averaging about 120 persons per year.

The Birth rate for the year is a small fraction below that of the Country generally, and appears to be falling slightly.

Birth rate per 1,000 population	(1937 ..	14.7
	(1936 ..	14.9
	(1935 ..	15.3
	(1934 ..	15.6

Of the total 152 (live and still) births 5, or 3.3 per cent were illegitimate.

The Death rate for the year, when corrected for age and sex distribution, was 11.9, and below that of the Country generally. It is remaining at a steady and favourable average.

Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	(1937 ..	11.9
	(1936 ..	11.7
	(1935 ..	11.5
	(1934 ..	10.7

No death was due to any of the common infectious diseases. Influenza caused 7 deaths, pulmonary tuberculosis 4, other tuberculosis 3, cancer 20, cerebral haemorrhage 7, heart disease 41, bronchitis 6, pneumonia 8. One death was due to suicide, and 8 to "other violence" (accident).

Infant death rate. The rate for the year in the district again compares very favourably with that of the Country generally, viz., 34 as against 58. The average for the past four years has been low and favourable.

Infant death rate per 1,000 born	1937	..	34
	1936	..	40
	1935	..	63
	1934	..	49

The general decline in infant mortality is a satisfactory indication of progress in education as to matters of maternal and infant welfare, and of the value of the work of District nurses, and of the Health Visiting system of the County Council.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

As regards the following matters no change has occurred during the year in the arrangements detailed in the Annual Report for 1930:-

Nursing in the home, Laboratory facilities, Legislation in force, Hospitals, Ambulance facilities, Clinics, and Treatment Centres.

A code of Building Bye-laws was adopted by resolution of the Council in November.

Nursing. All parts of the Area are served by Associations affiliated to the Shropshire Nursing Federation.

Hospital Isolation. In the absence of material progress towards the provision of a County Isolation Hospital, the Council continues its arrangement for admission of urgent cases of infectious disease to the Shrewsbury and Atcham Joint Isolation Hospital. Of 6 cases notified during the year, 3 were removed to Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. The improvement of the water supplies in the district continues to engage the Council's close attention, and to occupy much of the Surveyor's time and energy in devising and furthering schemes of Public Supply to villages and other collections of houses. For much of the detailed information following I am indebted to Mr. Elliott.

The Council in past years has carried out numerous gravitational schemes of supply from excellent upland springs. In general the supply has been ample and efficient, but the recurrent droughts of some recent years have diminished the yield of springs temporarily in some of these, and have shown deficient conditions elsewhere.

As to the shortage of water during the year, the Surveyor reports:-

" The public supply to Newcastle (Clun) practically failed for a
" period of five months. The matter received the Council's
" attention, and at the end of the year the best means of providing
" either a supplementary supply, or an entirely new permanent
" source, was under consideration.
"
" No shortage was reported in any other of the Council's
" supplies.
"
" With regard to places outside the areas of the Council's
" piped supplies, shortage was reported from Pennerley (Worthen),
" and the Bog and Wentnor in Wentnor Parish.

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The position with regard to the schemes reported in my Report for 1936 was as follows:-

Kempton (Clunbury). After some difficulties, connected with the lowest tender, work on the scheme was eventually begun in October, and was well in hand by the end of the year.

Brockton and Worthen. Work on this scheme was commenced in August, and was still in progress at the end of the year. The Council have received more applications for a supply of water from this scheme than was anticipated, and it would appear that the estimated revenue from consumers will be exceeded.

Wentnor and District. During last summer it was found that the flow from the springs previously reported on was considerably less than at any time in 1936. It was therefore found necessary to search for, and test, other springs in another hollow on the Longmynd scarp. The whole of the springs were subjected to tests of yield until the autumn rains set in. The result was that the Council were satisfied that they had sufficient for all domestic purposes for the houses within the area of the proposed supply, but that it might be necessary to restrict the amount for agricultural use in the first instance.

Negotiations with the owner of the springs were concluded satisfactorily, and at the end of the year the scheme was on the point of being submitted to the Ministry for approval. The estimated cost of the scheme is £3,500, and the Council decided to make annual grants not exceeding £61. 0. 3. per annum provided that the County Council would give an equal amount. Application was accordingly made to the County Council last December.

Worthen Parish - Hope & Heath Wards. Following upon the Ministerial Inquiry into the Brockton and Worthen Scheme, a meeting of ratepayers of the parish called attention to the supplies in the above-named Wards, and asked that a survey should be made. The Council gave directions accordingly, but it was not found possible to complete a survey by the end of the year.

Clunton Coppice. The supply of water to the five or six houses known as Clunton Coppice had been engaging the Council's attention for a very considerable time, a possible source of supply was found in 1936, but the negotiations with the owner were protracted. Provisional terms were agreed eventually, and the Council decided that the scheme should be defrayed out of loan if it is carried out. Each of the occupiers agreed to pay a charge of 15/- per annum for each house supplied from a Standpipe. Permission to excavate and test the springs was not obtained until it was too late to do so last year; but this is now being done.

More. The Agent for the More Estate approached the Council with a view to the provision of a piped supply to the majority of the houses and farms in the parish of More. The Council decided that they would be prepared to consider a scheme if satisfactory terms could be arranged. The question was under consideration at the end of the year.

Sewerage and Drainage. During 1937, complaints were made as to a sewer in Worthen Village which also serves for highway drainage. The Council agreed to pay half the cost of putting this in order.

Rivers and streams. No new case of pollution came to notice, and no complaints were received.

Closet accommodation. Two pail closets were converted to W.C's, and five privies to earth closets.

Scavenging. There was no extension of the Public scavenging system in operation in Clun, and at Kinsley Road (Knighton) in Stowe Parish.

The following is an Account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the year.

Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey	191
Number of legal notices sent	-
Number of informal notices sent	31
Number of such notices complied with	23
Number of letters written	101

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE NOTICES:

(a) Houses to be cleansed after Infectious Disease ..	-
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply ..	2
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	13
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	10
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition ..	15
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds	7
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	-
(h) Houses overcrowded	1

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis) ..	10
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis	4
Privies converted to water closets	2
Privies converted to earth closets	5
Plans for new houses passed	-
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses ..	5
Houses connected to public water supply	5
Repairs to public pumps and wells	1
New public wells	-
Private wells reconstructed or improved	1
Houses connected to public sewerage	1
Lengths of new sewers laid	-
Lengths of new water mains laid (Kempton and Brockton & Worthen were in progress, but not completed in 1937).)	-

Proceedings before Magistrates: Nil.

H.A. ELLIOTT,

Sanitary Inspector.

Shops. No action as regards ventilation, temperature, or sanitary conveniences, was found necessary.

Smoke abatement. There are no factories.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are none in the district.

Eradication of bed bugs. No Council, or other, houses were found to be infested, and no disinfestation has therefore been found necessary.

Schools. It was not found necessary to call attention to sanitary defects in the Schools in the area.

Clun Public Convenience. The Convenience mentioned in the last Report has now been completed.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:-
   (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 230
   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 232
   (2) (a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. 46
   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 46
   (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 10
   (4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 21
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:-
   Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 19
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-
   (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:
      (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. -
      (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
         (a) By owners .. .. -
         (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. -
   (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
      (1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. -
      (2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
         (a) By owners .. .. -
         (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. -
   (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
      (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. -
      (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. -
   (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
      (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. -
      (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. -

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	44
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ..	44
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	307
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..	3
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..	30
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	255
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..	Nil

Housing Consolidation Amendment Regulations 1932.

(3) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the service of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders:

(a) .. Nil.
(b) 10

(7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936: .. 10

Housing Act, 1936.

During the year, six houses at Stiperstones and two at Snailbeach were taken over and completed by the Council owing to the Contractor's financial difficulties. In all except one case, the families to whom the houses were allotted came from dwellings in respect of which undertakings for closure had been accepted. In the case of the exception, the family concerned had found accommodation elsewhere.

The Council had also to cancel the contract for the erection of eight houses at Bucknell owing to the abovementioned Contractor's difficulties. The work was re-advertised, and another tender accepted. The houses were completed in December. Six of these houses were erected for slum clearance; five were let to families from houses which were then closed, and in the remaining case the family for whom it was intended had been accommodated elsewhere. The remaining two houses were built without exchequer subsidy, and are let at higher rents.

The number of houses now owned by the Council is 67, apart from those referred to below.

Five houses were built by private persons during the year.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926.

No. of houses for which grants were made during the year ..	9
No. of houses in which improvements were completed during the year ..	8
No. still in hand at end of year	6
Total number of houses completed since 1926 under the Act or in hand ..	75

The progress of improvement under this Act continues, but the considerable increase of activity referred to in my last Report was not so great as was anticipated, as to enquiries received, and there are still many cottages capable of being re-conditioned by means of grants without undue burden on the owners or occupiers.

With regard to the Council's schemes for converting Church Farm, Clungunford, into two good cottages, and re-conditioning Nos. 36 to 44, Newport Street, Clun, as four houses (mentioned in my 1936 Report), with the sanction of the Minister of Health contracts were entered into and, when completed, grants will be received under the Housing Act, 1935. The Council will then possess six good cottages, and the intention of the Act is that they shall be reserved for members of the agricultural population. The Surveyor would point out that if these two schemes were treated independently of the other Council schemes the rents which it would be necessary to charge are in excess of those usually paid by agricultural workers, and also in excess of the Council's average rents for new houses.

With regard to the overcrowded house at Snailbeach referred to in my last Report, the Council invited tenders for re-conditioning and enlargement, but it was found that the cost was too high to allow of the work being done, and the house to be let at a rent which the tenant could afford to pay.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops for the year.

Number of Cowkeepers and Milksellers on Register	Wholesalers	138
	Retailers	16
	Total	154
Number of premises - cowsheds ..	..	154
dairies ..	..	19
milkshops ..	..	6
Total number of premises registered	..	
Number of inspections ..	..	93
Defects found (1) in cowsheds:		
(a) floor or cubic space	..	2
(b) ventilation ..	..	14
(c) lighting ..	..	10
(d) structure of floor	..	12
(e) drainage ..	..	4
(f) cleanliness ..	..	1
(2) in surroundings of cowsheds	..	7
(3) in sanitary condition of drains	..	-

(4) in sanitary condition of milkshops ..	-
(5) in water supply	1
Number of notices - verbal and written	21
Number of these notices complied with	15
Number of defects found and not yet remedied ..	17
Number of premises reconstructed or radically improved during the year ..	5

Number of Tuberculin Tested (Certified) milksellers in district at end of year ..	-
" " Tuberculin Tested milksellers in district at end of year ..	3
" " Pasteurised " " " " ..	-
" " Accredited " " " " ..	2

H.A. ELLIOTT

Sanitary Inspector.

Meat Inspection & Slaughterhouses.

	Carcases Inspected and Condemned				
	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	Not known				
Number inspected (No record) Estd. ..	25	3	10	45	15
All diseases except Tuberculosis: Whole carcases condemned ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	"	"	"	"	"
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	"	"	"	"	"
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned ..	"	"	"	"	"
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	"	"	"	"	"
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	"	"	"	"	"

There are seven slaughterhouses which are inspected at irregular intervals, but no carcases have been found tuberculous or unsound.

The Slaughter of Animals Act has been made applicable to sheep throughout the District.

Bakehouses. The five bakehouses have been inspected at intervals, and it has not been found necessary to complain as to their condition.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the District Council, free of cost for cases of the poorer class, through local chemists, who supply medical men upon request. Antitoxin is in general use in all but very slight cases. In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health's Memorandum of July, 1922, the Council instructed their contracting chemists to hold and supply Antitoxin in phials containing 8,000 units for treatment and 500 units for prophylactic use.

Disinfection is carried out as a routine measure, by the Inspector with formalin spray or vapor lamps, in cases of notified infectious disease, or upon death or removal in cases of phthsis. The Council share with the Borough of Bishop's Castle a 'Thresh' Emergency Steam Disinfector, which is kept at the Clun Public Assistance Institution, Bishop's Castle.

Diphtheria Immunisation. Under the scheme adopted by the Council in 1936, for free immunisation of children of the poorer classes, no application was received during the year.

The incidence of infectious disease during the year was light.

There was no epidemic prevalence.

One case, only, of diphtheria came to light. This was a child in a caravan temporarily in Lydbury North parish, in October. The child was removed to Monkmoor Isolation Hospital.

Scarlet Fever. Five cases occurred, three in one family in Llanfairwaterdine parish in May; one at Priest Weston in June; this case was removed to Hospital; and one at Lydham in July. Due precautions were taken, and there was no spread of infection.

Enteric Fever. One case was notified in Clun town in June. The case appeared to be one of imported infection, the patient having come home ill from her place of employment outside the district. Careful investigation was made at both places, but the source of infection was quite obscure. The patient was removed to Monkmoor Isolation Hospital, and not discharged until two negative results had been obtained from examination of the excreta. Special precautions were taken in the matter of disinfection.

Acute Poliomyelitis. Three cases occurred, and appeared to be sporadic outbreaks, and not connected in any way. The first occurred in a boy of 12 years in April in Clun; was admitted to the Royal Salop Infirmary and transferred to the Orthopaedic Hospital at Oswestry, for special treatment. The second case was notified from Newcastle in October in a boy of 13 years. This case was also sent to Hospital. The third case was notified from Worthen, also in October. Enquiry in this case showed that the onset had probably been some months earlier, and that the case had been one of unusual kind, of very gradual development. This child, of 4 years, had Orthopaedic treatment at one of the Child Welfare Centres served by the Orthopaedic Hospital.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	5	1	-
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Enteric fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	-
Puerperal fever	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	5	2	-
Pneumonia	17	-	8
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	2	-

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases			Vision un-impaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated At home.	Treated In hospital.				
	1	-	1	1	-	-	-

Tuberculosis.

Age-Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
5-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-
15-	2	2	1	1	-	-	1	-
25-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
55-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	5	3	4	2	2	2	1

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925. No action was taken or found necessary, as to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62. No action was necessary for application for an order for compulsory removal to hospital.

M. GIPP.

Medical Officer of Health.

Shrewsbury,
6th. June, 1938.